



Press Statement
5 February 2014

ETRC – European Parliament Votes to Protect the Carriage of Luggage Onboard

The European Parliament today sent a strong message to Member States regarding the need for clearer, stronger Air Passenger Rights, including the protection of the absolute right of passengers to carry travel retail purchases on-board aircraft in addition to the prescribed hand baggage allowances.

The historic decision by the Parliament has recognised the need for protection of consumers of an accepted practice on the majority of airlines for over 50 years .

Over the last number of years, thousands of passengers have been unfairly forced to discard their airport shopping or have been charged exorbitant ‘fines’ by certain airlines in order to bring their shopping onboard.

Speaking at a press conference following the adoption of the report, Rapporteur of the report, MEP George Bach (EPP/Luxembourg) commented that the report “clearly established a ban on the so-called One Bag Rule imposed by certain airlines.”

Commenting on today’s vote, ETRC President Sarah Branquinho strongly supported today’s advancement:

“Today’s vote is a significant development for the recognition of passenger rights and for the airport and travel retail industry. We are very happy the European Parliament has shown such strong leadership and has used this unique opportunity to advance stronger and clearer rights for Air Passengers which should address recent confusion arising from differing airline policies. We now hope that Member States will also place the passenger first in their deliberations.

ETRC will continue to work with our Members, Partners and National Associations to call on Member States to acknowledge the right to carry on-board duty free and travel retail purchases free of charge.

Shopping at the airport has been part of the travel experience since commercial aviation began. Today’s vote will help ensure that it continues to be enjoyed by many millions of air passengers every year”.

The Council of Transport Ministers and the European Parliament will negotiate a final agreement on the air passenger rights legislation in the coming months.

ENDS



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